

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

SUCCESSOR TO  
CHERRY COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

ROBERT GOOD, Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1896

## Democratic Ticket.

For President  
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN  
Of Lincoln, Nebraska  
For Vice President  
ARTHUR SEWALL  
Of Bath, Maine  
Presidential Electors.  
FRED METZ.  
O. W. PALM.  
F. J. HALE.  
N. PLASCEKI.  
N. O. ALBERTS.  
S. L. KOSTRYZE.  
J. N. CAMPBELL.  
M. F. HARRINGTON.  
For Governor.  
SILAS A. HOLCOMB.  
For Lieutenant Governor.  
J. E. HARRIS.  
For State Secretary.  
W. F. PORTER.  
For State Auditor.  
JOHN F. CORNELL.  
For State Treasurer.  
J. N. MESERVE.  
For Attorney General.  
C. J. SMYTH.  
For State Superintendent.  
W. R. JACKSON.  
For Commissioner.  
J. V. WOLFE.  
For Judges Supreme Court,  
Long Term  
WILLIAM NEVILLE,  
Short Term  
J. S. KIRKPATRICK.  
For University Regent,  
THOMAS RAWLINGS.  
For Representative, 52d District  
ROBERT GOOD  
For County Attorney  
D. H. THURSTON

We cannot restore confidence, either to the treasury or to the people, without a change in our present tariff laws.—Major McKinley.

The railroads are going to do their share for the McKinley meeting at Canton. We hear that the rate from Chicago will be 100 cents. The chromo in addition will be considered later. Fourteen thousand are going from Pittsburg. Kentucky will send a delegation. Mark Hanna will show Mr. Bryan that he can't have all the big meetings.

No better equipped man could have been named for Attorney General than C. J. Smyth, of Omaha. An upright honorable gentleman, a practitioner who stands high at the bar, a citizen above reproach, he compares with the present legal adviser of the state as a giant to a pigmy. The duties of the office of Attorney General have not received much of the time of the present incumbent, whose record as a lawyer in Nebraska dates from the time when he was indicted in Iowa for appropriating to himself the wealth of another man. His incompetency is notorious and the next Attorney General will be a clean man and a competent lawyer, C. J. Smyth, of Omaha.—Wymore Arbor State.

We think that Mr. Bryan is making a mistake in coming back to the East, and that his efforts will be wasted here. It is true some democrats are hopeful of carrying New York, but we do not think it at all probable. There is a very strong silver feeling in many of the rural counties, but it is far more than overbalanced by the heavy democratic defection in the cities. Granting for the sake of argument that Mr. Bryan would have a chance to carry New York, yet that chance is so small that it is not worth while to go after it and neglect the West. Campaigning will be much more profitable in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. Then it must be remembered that New York is not necessary to democratic success this year. Mr. Bryan can be elected without it.—New York World.

## THEY WANT IT ALL.

At the populist convention held at Sparks last Saturday for the purpose of nominating a candidate for representative from the fifty-second district, they were visited by Robert Good, as a democrat, who asked them to withhold the nomination of a candidate until after the democrats had held their convention, with a view to securing the endorsement of the democratic nominee. This they refused to do, thus directly refusing to stand by their off-asserted shibboleth of "principle before party," and indirectly challenging the democratic party to nominate a candidate for the office named. Evidently the populists supposed no democrat could be found who would have the temerity to run for office on nothing but the strength of his democracy in a district where his party is in the minority, and in a year when "fusion" seems to be the watchword of both democrats and populists. But they reckoned without their host.

A short time ago THE DEMOCRAT gave out as its sentiment: "When fusion fuses we are willing to support it, but when fusion merely means obliteration of the party it is time to kick." That is still the sentiment of this paper. As the "fusion" stood up to Saturday it was all populism and no democracy, hence the kick.

The democrats of the state of Nebraska endorsed the entire state ticket of the populists from governor down to state superintendent.

The democrats of the sixth congressional district endorsed the populist nominee for congress, W. L. Greene.

The democrats of the 14th senatorial district by their silence practically endorse Otto Mutz, populist, for senator.

The democrats of Cherry county endorsed the populist nominee for county attorney, D. H. Thurston.

The democrats of the second commissioner district have as yet taken no action looking toward the nomination of a candidate for that office.

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT is the only democratic newspaper in northwestern Nebraska, yet the democrats have given it no candidate to support. Populists want "fusion" but all the fusion candidates must be populists. This paper protests that this is not right, and democrats support it when it makes the declaration. The nomination of a fusion candidate for representative would have completed the fusion chain, but the populists refused to forge the last link.

This is a plain statement of the facts in the case. Arguments and theories must be based upon them, and no fair-minded person can say otherwise than that the populists were wrong in asking everything without giving anything. That party is supposed to be a liberal party, yet a greater example of greed and selfishness was never presented by the old parties. However, in justice to the party at large, we cannot think that; the action of the delegates at Sparks does not represent the views of the majority.

## FACTS TO REMEMBER.

It was the republican party which turned over to the Cleveland administration a bankrupt treasury, with continuing appropriations of millions in favor of subsidized interests with public revenues depleted in the interest of private plunder, and with the plates for the bond issue that became immediately necessary already engraved and ready for the printer.

It was the republican party, represented by the Harrison-Reed-McKinley congress, which, by extravagant appropriations, looted the treasury, turning a splendid surplus into a great deficit.

It was the republican party which passed the McKinley protective tariff law—a law which demoralized business, impoverished the people, engendered labor strikes and lockouts, numeraled and oppressed every legitimate industry in order that political adventures and gamblers might thrive on the uncertainties and distress that such measures always occasion.

It was the grand collapse of the republican party's unrestricted legislation in favor of privileged classes, of the republican party's wanton abandonment of the masses in favor of the classes, of the republican party's rotten financial and economical doctrines, that caused all the ills from which the country has suffered during the last three years.

No fighting has been done in Cuba of late, but both the revolutionists and the Spanish are preparing for a series of heavy engagements, and the end of the war is not far distant.

## HE WILL STAY AT HOME.

Mark Hanna says that McKinley will not take the "stump," but will continue to speak to the people who come to see him. Of course that is all right for McKinley and his supporters, for they can ride on palace cars, passes, and special trains, placed at their disposal by the corporations who own McKinley, well knowing that in the event of his election, should they ask a "favor" of him, it would be granted. Not so however with Bryan, for the people who are his most ardent supporters are the people who "earn their bread by the sweat of their face," and but very few of them ride on passes or in palace cars. Bryan is one of the people, and is not afraid to ask them to mingle with them. It is fitting and eminently proper that McKinley should stay at home and receive those who have the means, or who are furnished with the means to journey so far to see this great man who proposes to enrich the few at the expense of the many, because they ask it of him. Yes it is proper that he should stay at home and not go out among the people whom his party brands as repudiators and anarchists. We believe that the great mass of people are glad he is staying at home, and we have good and sufficient reason for believing that he will continue staying at home for at least four years more.—Brownlee Hornet.

## THE AMENDMENTS

The fourth proposed amendment to the constitution provides that "the judicial power of this state shall be vested in a supreme court, district courts, county courts, justice of the peace, police magistrates and in such other courts inferior to the supreme court as may be created by law in which two-thirds of the members elected to each house concur." As the formation of new courts is left to the legislature, and as the legislature is elected directly by the people, we see no valid objections to this amendment.

The fifth proposed amendment relates to increasing the number of judges and changing the boundaries of the various judicial districts, and it requires a two-thirds vote of the legislature to do either. This amendment is eminently proper and is necessary in order that the judiciary may keep pace with the growth of the state without the expense of amending the constitution every time a new judge is wanted. Changes cannot be made oftener than once in four years.

The sixth amendment proposes to allow five-sixths of a jury in civil cases to return a verdict, and also to allow trial by a jury of less than twelve men in courts inferior to the district court. This seems to be a good amendment, as it will greatly reduce the expense of trials, and also reduce to a minimum the "tying up" of a jury by one or two men, as is frequently done now, necessitating a new trial and consequent delay.

## HOME MARKET ARGUMENT.

In one of his platitudinous speeches, Major McKinley declared that "what we want is to protect the splendid home market to our own American producers."

The republican party has been protecting the "splendid home market" now for thirty years, and the position of the farmer to-day is worse than it has been in all that time.

Nor has the depression in the industry come without warning. It has pinched harder year by year for twenty years, till now, with corn at about 18 cents a bushel, the climax has been reached.

One need go no farther than Missouri to ascertain the condition of the farmer. When parents of the farming class are forced to deprive their children of the education which had been planned, because of the depression of the times, what folly it is to talk of preserving the "splendid home market."

Mr. McKinley speaks again of "almost damaging competition in our home market." In what agricultural products has this damaging foreign competition been noted? Is it in cotton? Is it in cattle, in wheat? Are not all these exported?

The truth of the matter is that the policy of protection has evoked retaliatory measures on the part of countries like Germany and France, which, by their prohibitory tariffs, have prevented our sales of agricultural products and thus caused a glut in the home market. McKinleyism means the final destruction of the agricultural industry.

## THE FAT IS FRYING.

The New York World of September 18, says Mark Hanna admits that it will take much money to educate the people sufficiently to insure the election of his candidate and the fat frying is now in full blast. The gigantic combines and trusts, all have been benefited in the past by the system represented by McKinley and hope for future benefits, and already the assessment necessary has been decided upon. The trusts are expected to contribute at least \$10,000,000 towards the election of McKinley and as the total capitalization of the various trusts doing business in defiance of law is about \$1,500,000,000 the enormous sum of \$10,000,000 can be raised without a very heavy assessment. About two-thirds of one per cent is all that will be necessary.

The dressed beef and provision trust will be the largest contributor, its capitalization being \$100,000,000. The assessment for this gigantic corporation is therefore \$665,000. The anthracite coal combine will be touched up for \$565,000. The skewer trust is the smallest of the lot, and it needs to contribute only \$400. When the price of dressed beef and provisions goes up you may know that the people are paying part of McKinley's campaign expenses, and the next time a dollar is added to the price of a ton of coal you will know that the coal trust has paid its assessments.

Ten million dollars is an enormous sum, and it will not all be used for legitimate purposes. Such a sum offers many inducements for theft when it is handled by men who do not have to give an accounting for it. Of this amount about \$5,000,000 will be used to corrupt voters and \$5,000,000 will be stolen. Architects are already drawing plans for houses which will be paid for out of this campaign fund.

From all over Cherry county news comes that the people are falling in line for Bryan. Not alone in one or two precincts is this the case, but in all parts of the county. THE DEMOCRAT hears that a Bryan club is in process of formation at Brownlee, and that several old-time republicans are interested in the movement. At Simeon the same story is told, and in Kewanee republicans are getting in the band wagon. Right here so much progress is not being made, but that is easily accounted for.

THE DEMOCRAT and the Thrice-a-week New York World one year, \$1.50.

## Democratic Platform.

The following is a synopsis of the platform adopted by the national convention at Chicago July 9th 1896. The plank referring to free coinage of silver is given in full:

Recognizing that the money question is paramount to all others at this time, we invite attention to the fact that the federal constitution makes silver and gold together as the money metal of the United States. We declare that the demonetization of silver in 1873 has resulted in the depreciation of silver and a corresponding fall in the price of commodities produced by the people. We are unalterably opposed to a single standard. Gold monometallism is a British policy; it is not only un-American but anti-American.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation. We demand that the standard dollar shall be a full legal tender, equally with gold, for all debts, public and private, and we favor such legislation as will prevent the demonetization of any kind of legal tender money by private contract.

We are opposed to the policy and practice of surrendering to the holders of the obligations of the United States the option reserved by law to the government of redeeming such obligations in either silver coin or gold coin.

We are opposed to the issuing of interest-bearing bonds of the United States in time of peace.

We demand that the power to issue notes to circulate as money be taken from the national banks, and that all paper money shall be issued directly by the treasury department.

We hold that tariff duties should be levied for purposes of revenue and that taxation should be limited by the needs of the government honestly and economically administered. We denounce as disturbing to business the republican threat to restore the McKinley law, which has been twice condemned by the people in national elections, and which, enacted under the false plea of protection to home industry, proved a prolific breeder of trusts and monopolies, by the added few at the expense of many, restricted trade and deprived the producers of the great American staples of access to their natural markets. Until the money question is settled we are opposed to any agitation for further change in our tariff laws, except such as are necessary to make the deficit in revenue caused by the adverse decision of the Supreme Court on the income tax. There would be no deficit in the revenue but for the annulment by the Supreme Court of a law passed by the democratic congress in strict pursuance of the uniform decision of that court for nearly one hundred years. We hold that the most efficient way of protecting American labor is to prevent the importation of foreign pauper labor to compete with it in our home market.

We denounce the profligate waste of the money wrung from the people by oppressive taxation and the lavish appropriations of recent republican congresses, which have kept taxes high while the labor that pays them is unemployed and the products of the people's toil are depressed in price till they no longer repay the cost of production.

We denounce the arbitrary interference by federal authorities in local affairs as a violation of the constitution of the United States and a crime against free institutions.

Recognizing the just claims of deserving union soldiers, we heartily endorse the rule of Commissioner Murphy that no names shall be arbitrarily dropped from the pension roll, and the fact of enlistment and service should be deemed conclusive evidence against disqualification before enlistment.

We extend our sympathy to the people of Cuba in their heroic struggle for liberty and independence.

We are opposed to life tenure in the public service. We favor appointments based upon merits, fixed term of office, and such administration of the civil service laws as will afford equal opportunities to all citizens of ascertained fitness.

We declare it to be the unwritten law of this republic, established by custom and usage of long years and sanctioned by the example of the greatest and wisest of those who founded and have maintained our government, that no man should be eligible for a third term of the presidential office.

# THE Preston Mystery

By LEROY LEACH

Author of "The Adventures of Don Enrique Romero," etc., etc.

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## IN NINE INSTALLMENTS—NINTH INSTALLMENT.

### CHAPTER XVIII.

#### The Solution to the Preston Mystery.

At this moment the dying man opened his eyes, and he gave a start and moan when he saw the face of Henry Preston above him.

"Preston, Preston; why have you come to torture my last moments with your accursed presence? You were ever my life's curse, my rival in everything," gasped the dying scout; "but, after all it matters not; the life you caused the ruin of is almost at an end. In a few short moments I will have left this cursed world of disappointment, and I thank God that it is so."

"You wrong me, Moore, when you accuse me of causing you disappointment. I had nothing to do with the workings of Fate," replied Preston kindly.

"Bah, Henry Preston; think you I would have become the wreck I now am, had you not robbed me of the love of Margaret Noble? No, man; I loved her more than life itself and she would have been mine, would have made my life a very Heaven, instead of a torture such as it has been to me, but for your turning her against me."

"It was your dissipated habits that lost you her love, Harry; I had nothing to do with her turning against you. But you are dying, man; let us be friends. Tell me, for the sake of God, had you ought to do with the murder of my little daughter Isabel?"

"I did, Henry Preston. But I did not kill her. It was a scoundrel in my employ who fired the shot which caused her death; but the bullet was intended for the man with her, for he was mistaken for you."

"For God's sake, tell me the story, Moore; if you sought to thus wreck my life, you succeeded but too well; her loss broke my heart. For more than a year have I searched for her murderer. Tell me, is he yet living?"

"Prop my head a little higher, Preston, and I will tell you the whole story," answered the scout, his wan face showing a shade of remorse.

Preston did what he could to ease the wounded man who finally related the details from which the following story of the mystery is written.

The scout, Harry Moore, alias Harry Lane, had been a schoolmate of Preston's in the early days when they together attended the little village school in Ohio and strove to win the smiles of pretty Margaret Noble. For a time the maid seemed to favor a young man by the name of Hendricks, but finally bestowed all her smiles on Moore. A few years later Moore became a hard drinker and the maiden refused to longer recognize him and finally married Preston, who was one of the brightest young men in the town. Moore swore vengeance, and by underhand rascality made the life of Preston, for the ten years that he lived in Ohio, so unbearable that Preston moved to Nebraska. Moore did not molest him for several years, but at last, hearing that a wealthy relative of his, whom Preston had at one time rescued from drowning in the Ohio, had made his will in Preston's favor, leaving him, the only living heir, entirely out of it, his rage knew no bounds. Hiring two rascals and binding them by an oath to assist him to kill Preston he started for Nebraska. Each of the two toughs carried, suspended from his neck by a chain of silver a hollow silver "3" which contained a copy of their murderous oath. Moore wore the golden "3."

Chancing to overhear a part of the ruffians' plans, the man Hendricks, alias Charles Gates, followed them day and night. On the night of the Preston tragedy Moore and his companions had camped on the Niobrara not far from the Preston ranch. Being short of meat, they had rowed out on the river in an old canoe which they had stumbled on in the grass, and while fishing had observed the forms of Powell and Isabel on the river bank. Hurriedly rowing to shore the three men concealed themselves in the bushes, and, mistaking Powell for Preston, one of Moore's ruffians fired a pistol shot at him, and the bullet, missing its intended mark, takes effect in the breast of the innocent maid. As Powell raises the form of his sweetheart, moaning her name in his anguish, one of the cowardly villains stab him from behind. Two bodies are thrown into

the river, and the murderous trio row down to the spot where they have left their horses. Arriving at their camp they see two horsemen in the act of making off with their steeds—the two strangers are Edward Belden and Charles Thompson who have ridden in this direction.

A fight ensues and the two cowboys are riddled with bullets. After killing the horses of the stockmen, the three murderers mount their steeds and flee to the westward. As they arrive opposite the Preston ranch they heard the sound of approaching hoofs, and, sheering from the road, the men gallop directly over the scene of the killing of Will and Mabel. They are soon pursued by Preston and his men, but manage to make their escape in the furious storm.

The next evening while they were eating their supper in the river timber a shot sounds from the bushes and one of the toughs falls forward, a bullet through his brain. As the other two break for the woods a shot pierces the body of Moore's remaining companion, and he alone escapes.

The man who has fired the fatal shots, Charles Hendricks, finds on the dead bodies of the two toughs the two silver "3's". Losing the trail of Moore Hendricks goes to North Platte, and there, almost a year later, delivers to John Preston the silver "3" containing the mysterious couplet:

"He who finds the proper '3' solves the Preston mystery."

Getting track of Moore in eastern Wyoming, Hendricks, while on his trail, is wounded by horse thieves and is cared for until his death by the band of Claude Duval.

Such, dear readers, is the story of the mysterious tragedy which caused the death of a fond mother, three innocent men, and wrecked the life of a loving father, a tragedy which was for almost two years wrapped in impenetrable gloom, and termed the Preston mystery.

After telling Preston of his villainy, Moore breathed his last, begging with his dying breath for the forgiveness of the man whom he had wronged.

The strangeness of Hendricks' behaviour in not wishing to meet Preston is explained by the fact that they had been bitter rivals for the hand of Margaret Noble.

After burying the body of Moore, Preston and his men bid farewell to the band of Claude Duval, after thanking them for their valuable assistance in running down the murderer, Moore, and started for the ranch on the Niobrara, and after a weary trip they reached home.

Preston soon sold out his cattle interests in Nebraska, and accompanied by John, went back to Ohio.

Let us lift the curtain which has fallen between us and the heroes of our o'er true tale for a parting glance at them, dear reader. In a pleasantly situated spot on the banks of the Little Miami river near Cincinnati may be seen a comfortable looking residence, surrounded by lovely grounds. It is the home of John Preston.

On a certain summer evening a passerby might have observed John and his pretty wife seated on the veranda. A short distance down the garden can be seen an aged man. He is leaning on his cane, and as the rays of the setting sun fall on his uncovered gray locks, they also fall upon a neat marble slab at the head of a flower strewn mound. As the old man sadly kneels in prayer over the grave, we may read the inscription on the marble:

"Sacred to the memory of Isabel and Margaret Preston.  
"Moving now among God's angels  
In the heaven of the blest  
Where the wicked cease from troubling  
And the weary are at rest."

—THE END—

It is calculated that at least 20,000 democrats did not vote in Maine. There are 55,000 democrats in the state and only 34,000 voted. It is useless to deny that Bryan is wasting time in the east. The central western states is where the battle is to be fought. Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and Iowa are the pivotal states. New York will go for McKinley and Bryan does not need the state to insure his election.